



European Union



In the arena of change

A Lawyer's journey to legislative impact and national transformation



The internship isn't just about theory—it's about seeing the legislative process in action

Samuel C. Chukwu, a passionate lawyer from Imo State, is no stranger to advocating for progress in his community. As a public speaker and training consultant, his commitment to change has been a driving force throughout his career. However, it is his dream of contributing to Nigeria's transformation that led him to apply for the EU-funded Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) Legislative Internship—a programme he views as a gateway to understanding the intricacies of the legislative process and its potential for shaping the nation's future.

For Samuel, creating lasting change requires informed action. "The task of changing Nigeria is not one to be approached with ignorance," he asserted. This belief spurred him to seek a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of lawmaking.

Encouraged by a friend and former PLAC intern who spoke highly of the programme, Samuel recognised the EU-funded PLAC Legislative Internship as the ideal platform to learn how laws are crafted and their profound impact on society.

"From what she shared, I knew this programme would offer an unparalleled opportunity to grasp the nuances of the legislative process," he said. "It's a chance to move from the outside looking in to truly being part of the system."

What particularly drew Samuel to the internship was the promise of hands-on experience. Working closely with legislative committees and witnessing the process unfold in real-time excited him. "The internship isn't just about theory—it's about seeing the legislative process in action," he explained. "That

insider's perspective is invaluable."

Samuel's decision to apply was not sparked by a single moment but by a series of realisations and conversations. A discussion with a programme alumnus challenged his preconceived notions about the legislative process and opened his mind to new perspectives. "For genuine understanding, there must be a synthesis of what you think you know and what actually is," he reflected. Motivated by this insight and his research into the programme, he confidently embarked on the application process. "I'm truly glad I took that step," he said.

For Samuel, the EU-funded PLAC Legislative Internship represents more than just learning; it is also an opportunity to build enduring relationships. "The connections I'll make, especially with fellow interns, can last a lifetime," he shared. The idea of collaborating with driven individuals from across Nigeria, united by a shared vision of nation-building, fuels his excitement. "We're all on the same journey, working towards the Nigeria of our dreams," he added.

One of the key aspects Samuel is keen to explore is the psychology behind lawmaking. While many focus on the final text of laws, he is intrigued by the intricate negotiations and thought processes that precede their drafting. He believes this understanding will refine his advocacy and analytical skills. "Advocacy must be rooted in knowledge, not just passion," he emphasised. "By understanding the psychology of lawmaking, I can advocate for laws that genuinely benefit society."

Beyond the professional skills he expects to gain, Samuel sees the internship as a platform for personal growth. Quoting Theodore Roosevelt, he remarked, "It is not the critic who counts... The credit belongs to the man in the arena." To Samuel, this EU-funded PLAC internship is his entry into the arena—a space where his teamwork, analytical, and interpersonal skills will be sharpened.

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This experience will undoubtedly elevate my abilities,

he said with confidence.

As Samuel steps into this new phase, he is deeply grateful for the opportunity provided by the EU-funded PLAC initiative. "You've given us the tools," he said, echoing Winston Churchill's famous words, "so watch us as we finish the job."

For Samuel C. Chukwu, the EU-funded PLAC Legislative Internship is more than a stepping stone; it's a platform to fulfil his vision of a better Nigeria. With the guidance of seasoned legislators and the camaraderie of like-minded peers, he is poised to make a meaningful impact on the nation's future.





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About the EU-SDGN Programme

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) is the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria. The programme is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.